ACT 14 — UBUKATA HOUAN'S RETROSPECTIVE

AH...
AH....

ARE YOU AL-RIGHT?!

IF IT ISN'T TOM...

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NA... RUMI...

AHH...

THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN HE IS, ASHIHA-NA.

LOOK AT THAT, GEORGE, UNTIL NOW I HAD NEVER SEEN THAT GUY LAUGH SINCE THE SAHARA BATTLE...

YES, FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHIL-DREN, HE WROUGHT HAVOC UPON THE AUTOMATA.

OH, RIGHT... YOU MET HIM AT THIS ZONAPHA HOSPITAL.

ACT 14 — UBUKATA HOUAN'S RETROSPECTIVE

NARU-MI!!

AIN'-TCHA IN A HURRY?

HEY, YOU.

YES, I ALSO MET WITH HIM IN THE ZONAPHA WARD...

MING-HAI... SO HE KNOWS THAT KID...

MART

YOUNGSTER, DON'T CALL ME AN ELDER!

ELDER.

MY APOLOGIES, WE BROUGHT YOU ALL THE WAY HERE AND EVEN MADE YOU WORRY ABOUT OUR MISSION...

IF WHAT THAT FOU FELLOW SAID IS TRUE, THEN THOSE GUYS ARE ALREADY HERE, AND THAT KID RAN AWAY FROM THEM...

HOUAN-SAN.

WHEN THAT GIRL CALLED MING-XIA SHOWED UP...

IT ALL STARTED ON THAT NIGHT...

TCH, GOOD GRIEF. WHAT THE HELL AM I EVEN DOING HERE...

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN, YOU ASK? WELL, HEAR ME OUT...

RYOUKO, HOW ARE YOU DOING? RIGHT NOW I'M IN THIS PLACE CALLED ILLINOIS IN AMERICA.

ALRIGHT, WE'RE DONE HERE.

THIS ALL STARTED A WEEK EARLIER FOR ME...

I KNOW THAT THE WORLD IS RAVISHED WITH THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME... BUT...

HOUAN-SAN.

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THEY CALLED FOR ME.

HOUAN-SAN, CAN YOU GO BACK BEFORE ME?

THE ROOKIE AND I WERE DOING THE INITIAL TRIP PREPARATIONS FOR THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS' NEXT SHOW IN SHIKOKU.

OH?!

HUH...?

YOU BASTARD ROOKIE! YOU'RE SMOOTHER THAN YOU LOOK!!

O-OH DAMN!!

THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS...

YOU GOT A CHICK IN SUCH A SHORT TIME. TO PUT IT IN NORI'S WORDS, "A SUCCESS-FUL PICK-UP!!"

OH NO, I LEFT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SHOOTING WITH MY OUTFIT ON!!

SHE'S CHI-NESE!

AN ANDRO-MEDA ALIEN!?

NO... THAT'S NOT IT...

IT'S GOOD TO BE YOUNG. I WAS ALSO PRETTY ACTIVE WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE!!

WELL WELL, GUESS I'LL BE HITTING THE BEACH

BUT DON'T TELL ME THAT WOMAN IS...

IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO THE WORLD.

WE CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE ALONE, SO COME WITH US, PLEASE.

WHA-...?!

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SORRY, HOUAN-SAN!

AND SO THEY TOOK ME, RYOUKO.

LET GO!!

LET GO OF ME, ROOKIE !!

HUH...?! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

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WE TOOK AN AIR-PLANE...

TOOK ME TO SOME AIRPORT... AND THEN...

バタバタ

THEY MADE ME RIDE THEIR HELI-COPTER...

I MEAN, HOW COULD I BELIEVE IT? SOME EVIL GUY MADE KARAKURI DOLLS THAT MOVED BY THEMSELVES, AND WAS TRYING TO SPREAD A DISEASE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST IDIOTS AT FIRST.

ROOKIE AND THE CHINESE GIRL WERE ALLIED WITH THE PEOPLE WHO FOUGHT AGAINST THEM TOGETHER.

THEY ARE BIG, MISTER.

LOOK, THEY ARE SMALL, WELL BUILT, AND MAKE LITTLE RATTLING NOISES

KARAKURI DOLLS ARE THIS TINY!!

FOR STAR-TERS...

IDIOTS! DON'T TRY TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME JUST BECAUSE I'M OLDER!!

...REALLY BIG.

SAY WITH ME, FOR STARTERS, KARAKURI DOLLS ARE...

COME ON ROOKIE, I BELIEVE IN YOU.

OH, YOU POOR THING. AND YOU'RE STILL SO YOUNG...

GUY?! YOU SAID HIS NAME IS GUY?!

RYOUKO, HEAR THIS OUT... THAT PERSON WAS...

HE WAS HELPED BY ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS AND JOINED FORCES WITH THEM.

APPARENTLY ROOKIE USED TO LEAD A NORMAL LIFE, UNTIL HE ALMOST DIED IN AN INCIDENT.

WE PICKED HIM UP ON THE SEA... HE WAS ALIVE!!

WHAT ABOUT IT...?

WAS HE KINDA LIKE THIS...?

YEAH, A SHOWY, LADY-KILLER TYPE OF MAN. HE WENT MISSING WHEN WE WERE FIGHTING NEAR JAPAN...

OHH, YES, YES.

YUP, JUST LIKE THIS...

RYOUKO, THERE ARE COUNTLESS KINDS OF ENCOUNTERS AND PARTINGS IN LIFE...

...IS ALIVE...?

.....GUY...

IN MY MIND, I UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WASN'T A BAD FELLOW, AND I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO HATE HIM...

OH, MAN...

SO HE'S ALIVE...

THE PLANE FLEW FOR HALF A DAY BEFORE FINALLY LANDING.

THESE KIND OF ENCOUNTERS HAPPEN AS WELL.

AND WAITING FOR ME THERE WAS...

WE WERE NOW IN LONDON, ENGLAND!

AN OLD-TIMER CALLED FOU CLAUDE BOILEAU. AND...

THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD...

AND THE ONE WE SAVED, GUY.

A VERY OBVIOUS-LOOKING GANGSTER, ASHIHANA, A MYSTERIOUS MAN WITH SUNGLASSES, GEORGE,

GUY, YOU IDIOT!!

AND THE RUCKUS THAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT...

YOU CAN HEAR ABOUT IT FROM SOMEONE ELSE LATER.

I DON'T HAVE ANY OBLIGATION TO TELL YOU!!

WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME KNOW YOU WERE ALIVE SOONER?!

NO HUMAN WILL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE. THOSE AFFECTED WILL CONTINUOUSLY SUFFER FROM IT ON THE SPOT.

IN A FEW DAYS THE WORLD WOULD BE PLAGUED BY THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME...

THE STORY THAT FOU TOLD US WAS HONESTLY SHOCKING.

I WAS A BIT SKEPTICAL HEARING ABOUT IT.

AP-PARENTLY THEY'RE CALLED "APOLLYON..."

THE SOURCE OF THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME ARE LITTLE TINY KARAKURI DOLLS SHAPED LIKE INSECTS...

HOWEVER, AS FOR THE ROOKIE...

BUT IT WAS LIKE SOMETHING IN HIS BODY WAS ABOUT TO EXPLODE AT ANY MOMENT.

HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD.

I HEARD YOU'RE PAYING 20 BILLION, WHO DO YOU WANT ME TO KILL?

...SO, WHAT ARE WE SUP-POSED TO DO, FOU?

ALTHOUGH I WOULD RATHER FORGET ABOUT IT...

THE EPIDEMIC RESEARCH INSTI-TUTE...? WE WENT THERE ONCE.

MR. NARUMI, MR. GUY AND MR. GEORGE... YOU THREE HAVE BEEN TO THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME RESEARCH FACILITY IN ILLINOIS, CORRECT?

HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

THERE, A MACHINE MADE TO REPEL THE INSECT-TYPE AUTOMATA PATHOGENS, "APOLLYON..."

WE CAN CURE THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME WITH IT!!

THEN...

WHAT ?!

!

NO WAY, IT'S THE AUTO-MATA!!

WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED ...?

THEY'VE GONE SILENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONTACTING ME, AND I STOPPED RECEIVING DATA.

YES... HOWEVER, ONLY ONE PROTOTYPE WAS MADE. AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO IT.

YES. THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO GO AND PROTECT THAT MACHINE.

TO PROTECT HUMANITY FROM THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME!!

AND THERE YOU HAVE IT, RYOUKO. THAT'S THE REASON WHY I CAME ALL THE WAY TO AMERICA.

OLD TOWN

ARTISTS TOP

CUBE

"BUT GRANDPA HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!" "WHAT CAN YOU EVEN DO THERE?!"...I SAID THAT TO FOU TOO.

...I KNOW IT, RYOUKO. I CAN HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

BUT I'LL SAY ONE THING,

WE PROBABLY CAN'T STOP THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME FROM SPREADING.

YOU DIRTY LIAR, DON'T JUST LAUGH IT OFF! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

YOU... OR SHOULD I SAY, THE MEMBERS OF THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS CANNOT BE INFECTED BY THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME.

...

IT'S SHIRO-GANE, RIGHT?

...SO EVERY-ONE HAS BEEN PRO-TECTED FROM THOSE BUGS!

BECAUSE ONE OF YOUR MEMBERS HAS A CONDITION THAT DISPELS "APOLLYON."

I WONDER ABOUT THAT. PEOPLE HAVE THEIR OWN WAYS OF DOING THINGS.

BUT WE'RE JUST ENTER-TAINERS.

WE HAVE NO FIGHTING SKILLS...

I'M GOING TO PICK UP THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS RIGHT NOW.

RYOUKO, IT WAS A STUPID STORY... THERE WAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE IT.

...IF YOUR CIRCUS WERE TO SAVE THE WORLD.

I WOULDN'T FIND IT SURPRIS-ING...

IT'S EMBARRASSING, BUT... YOUR GRANDPA TREMBLED A LITTLE.

NARUMI, IT'S TER-RIBLE!!

THAT... WELL... IT FELT JUST LIKE WHEN I WAS YOUNG, TREMBLING WITH EXCITEMENT BEFORE ENTERING THE CIRCUS RING...

"ALRIGHT..." RYOUKO, IT'S AN "ALRIGHT" FOR GRANDPA TOO!!

AL-RIGHT!!

NARUMI, PLEASE... SAVE EVERY-ONE!!

THERE ARE DOLLS ATTACKING THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE! THE DOOR TO THE WARD I WAS IN WON'T LAST ANY LONGER!!

WHAT IS IT?!